## STATE ETHICS COMMISSIONS -- ACCESS TO DETERMINATIONS

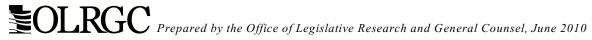
All of the states have some sort of state ethics oversight entity, although jurisdiction of these entities varies. Nine states (Arizona, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming) do not have state independent ethics commissions, thus external oversight is provided through other state agencies such as the Office of the Secretary of State or Attorney General, or by legislative ethics committees. Commissions in Alaska and Maine have the power to investigate ethics matters that relate to legislators, but matters are adjudicated by the ethics committee. Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington have an independent legislative ethics commission and an independent executive commission with jurisdiction over their respective branches.

This table includes access to state ethics commission "determinations," which include: opinions, decisions, advice letters, final orders, enforcement actions or rulings, and reports. The availability, accessibility, and type of a determination varies from state to state. In most states, a person needs to know a name, date, or document/case number in order to access a determination. However in some states, determinations are readily accessible through search capabilities, subject indices, or brief summaries. (See for example, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.)

Name of Commission and Jurisdiction	ACCESS TO DETERMINATIONS
Alabama State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and local officials	Access: http://ethics.alabama.gov/opinion2.aspx • Search for "legislator" yields 94 of 769 opinions
Alaska Public Officers Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists. The  Commission can investigate ethics matters that relate to legislators, but matters must be adjudicated by the ethics committee.  Legislative Ethics Committee - The full committee considers advisory opinions, and issues the opinion.	Access: (Commission): http://doa.alaska.gov/apoc/home.html  Access: (Committee): http://ethics.legis.state.ak.us/advisory_opinions.php  • Advisory Opinion by Subject 1984-2009  • Advisory Opinion by Year 1984 - 2009  • Advisory Opinion by Statement of Facts 1993-2009
Arizona - No Commission	
Arkansas Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.arkansasethics.com/



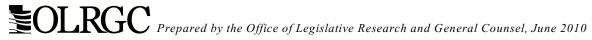
Name of Commission and Jurisdiction	ACCESS TO DETERMINATIONS
California Fair Political Practices Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and local officials	Access: http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=545  • Advice Letter Search (1990-2010)  • Advice Letter Search (1984-1989)  • Advice Letter Search (1975-1983)
Colorado Independent Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislative, executive branches, certain local and municipal jurisdictions (home rule counties and cities with ethics codes are excluded), some jurisdiction over lobbyists and independent contractors	Access: http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DPA-IEC/IEC/1225277043918  • IEC Opinions
Connecticut Office of State Ethics  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and lobbyists  (Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board is part of the Office of State Ethics)	Access: http://www.ct.gov/ethics/cwp/view.asp?a=3488&Q=414904&ethicsNav= 44061   • Index to Opinions and Declaratory Rulings http://www.ct.gov/ethics/cwp/view.asp?a=2305&q=301612  • Advisory Opinion Summaries 1978 - 2010 http://www.ct.gov/ethics/cwp/view.asp?a=3842&q=458102  • Declaratory Rulings
<b>Delaware State Public Integrity Commission</b> Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and lobbyists for financial disclosure	Access: http://depic.delaware.gov/sections/conduct/opinion/index.shtml
Florida Commission on Ethics  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.ethics.state.fl.us/ (Under "Research")  • Advisory opinions from 1974 - 2010  • Final and Recommended Orders 1983 - 2009  • Unpublished Final Orders 2005 - 2010
Georgia State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and lobbyists  (Joint Legislative Ethics Committee)	Access: http://www.ethics.state.ga.us/references/opinions.aspx  • Advisory Opinions http://www.ethics.state.ga.us/references/orders.aspx  • Orders: Searchable by name or respondent committee



Name of Commission and Jurisdiction	ACCESS TO DETERMINATIONS
Hawaii State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists	Access: http://hawaii.gov/ethics/opinions/AOs  • Advisory Opinions: accessible on grid by year and document number, search by "legislator"  http://hawaii.gov/ethics/opinions/IAOs  • Informal Advisory Opinions  http://hawaii.gov/ethics/opinions/decisions  • Decisions
Idaho - No Commission	
Illinois Legislative Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators  Commission and Illinois Office of the Legislative Inspector General have jurisdiction over legislators  (State also has the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission)	Access: http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lec/default.asp
Indiana State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Executive branch and vendors, and no jurisdiction over legislators	
Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board  Jurisdiction: Executive branch, candidates, and executive branch lobbyists, and include legislators for filing their financial disclosure statements, but the Board has no other authority over legislators	
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.accesskansas.org/ethics/opinion/  • Opinions (search by keyword and year, or by category)
Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, candidates, and lobbyists (State also has Executive Branch Ethics Commission)	Access: http://klec.ky.gov/advisory/index/  • Index of Opinions by year  http://klec.ky.gov/advisory/summary.htm  • Summaries of Opinions 1993 - 2009
Louisiana Board of Ethics  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and vendors	Access: http://204.196.0.53/EthicRu2.nsf/ecfd553acd8f6446862567f9006e60b6?OpenView Rulings, Advisory Opinions, Consent Opinions and Charges



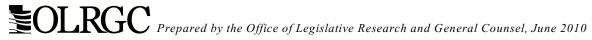
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Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists  The Commission can investigate ethics matters that relate to legislators, but matters must be adjudicated by the ethics committee.	Access: http://www.state.me.us/ethics/legislators/opinions.htm  • Advisory opinions for legislators
Maryland State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, local officials, and lobbyists  The Commission only has authority to handle financial disclosure for legislators; conflicts of interest issues are handled by the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.	Access: http://ethics.gov.state.md.us/
Massachusetts State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Enforces the conflict of interest and financial disclosure laws for executive branch members, legislators, and candidates for state (but not local) office	Access: http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=ethsubtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Opinions+and+Ru lings&L2=Advisory+Opinions&sid=Ieth
Michigan State Board of Ethics  Jurisdiction: State employees and appointed officials, no jurisdiction over legislators or other elected officials	
Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.cfbreport.state.mn.us/WebSearch_Servlet/processDirect.do?start=0&nr=1 0&i=global&q=opinions
Mississippi Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and local officials	Access: http://www.ethics.state.ms.us/ethics/ethics.nsf/\$\$SearchTemplateDefault?OpenForm& QueryStr=FIELD%20Summary_Text%20CONTAINS%20legislator • 274 Advisory Opinions found under search for "legislator"
Missouri Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.moethics.mo.gov/EthicsWeb/CommissionActions.aspx#Section3  • Commission actions
Montana Commissioner of Political Practices  Jurisdiction: Legislators (unless the complaint involves a legislative act), executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists with respect to laws and rules pertaining to: Ethics, Lobbying, and Campaign Finance & Practices	Access: http://politicalpractices.mt.gov/default.mcpx



Name of Commission and Jurisdiction	ACCESS TO DETERMINATIONS
Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://nadc.nol.org/AdvisoryOpinions/Advisory%20Opinion%20DigestII-2.htm
Nevada Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators and executive branch.	Access: http://ethics.nv.gov/Ncoe%20Website/Opinions.html  Opinions accessed by applicable statute or by year
New Hampshire - No Commission (Joint Legislative Ethics Committee)	
New Jersey State Ethics Commission (Enforces State Conflict of Interest Law)	Access: http://nj.gov/ethics/
New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists (only includes disclosure and election issues)  New Jersey Commission of Investigation  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and vendors (public officers and public employees, and of officers and employees of public corporations and authorities) (Joint Legislative Commission On Ethical Standards)	http://www.state.nj.us/sci/index.shtm  http://www.state.nj.us/sci/reportsreg.shtm  • Regulatory Ethics and Law Enforcement Oversight Reports
New Mexico - No Commission	
New York State Commission on Public Integrity  Jurisdiction: Executive branch, and has no authority over legislators  (Joint Legislative Ethics Commission) (classified actually as a "Committee")	
North Carolina State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Executive branch (Exec. Order No. 1 invites legislators to participate)  (Joint Legislative Ethics Committee)	Access: http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/opinionsLegislative.htm  • Legislative Ethics Committee Formal Advisory Opinions
North Dakota - No Commission	
Ohio Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Executive branch, and has no authority over legislators  (Joint Legislative Ethics Committee)	



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Oklahoma Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, and candidates	Access: http://www.ok.gov/oec/Ethics_Interpretations_%5BEIs%5D_and_Informal_Opinions _%5BIOs%5D/Ethics_Interpretations/  • Ethics Interpretations http://www.ok.gov/oec/Ethics_Interpretations_%5BEIs%5D_and_Informal_Opinions _%5BIOs%5D/Informal_Opinions/  • Informal Opinions http://www.ok.gov/oec/Ethics_Interpretations_%5BEIs%5D_and_Informal_Opinions _%5BIOs%5D/Index_to_EIs_and_IOs/  • Index to Ethics Interpretations and Informal Opinions - Indexed by subject
Oregon Government Standards and Practices Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.gspc.state.or.us/OGEC/advisory_opinions.shtml
Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and local officials	Access: http://www.ethicsrulings.state.pa.us/browse.aspx
Rhode Island Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and vendors	Access: http://www.ethics.ri.gov/advisory/  • Advisory Opinions 1995 - 2010 http://www.ethics.ri.gov/complaints/decisions/index.php  • Decisions and Orders 1998 - 2009, accessible by name and Complaint No.
South Carolina State Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists, and no authority over legislators  (House and Senate Ethics Committees)	
South Dakota - No Commission (Senate and House Select Committees on Discipline and Expulsion)	
Tennessee Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, public officials, candidates, and lobbyists, including local	Access: http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/tec/opinions.htm  • Advisory Opinions 2006 - 2009, brief subject summary http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/tec/EnforcementOrders.htm  • Enforcement Orders 2008 - 2009, accessible by name and opinion number



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Texas Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists	Access: http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/legal/AT-eaosquery.html  • Digest of Ethics Advisory Opinions Search 1992 - 2010 http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/sworncomp/orderlst_issued.html  • Sworn Complaint Open Orders 1992 - 2010
Utah Independent Legislative Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators	Legislation passed in 2010 General Session
Vermont - No Commission	
Virginia - No Commission	
Washington State Legislative Ethics Board (Joint Committee) Jurisdiction: Legislator matters are adjudicated by the Board  Washington Public Disclosure Commission Jurisdiction: Executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists. Legislators file their financial disclosure statements with the Commission, but the Commission has no other authority over legislators.	<ul> <li>Access: http://www.leg.wa.gov/LEB/Opinions/AdvisoryOpinions/pages/default.aspx</li> <li>Advisory Opinions 1995 - 2009, Search by opinion number and subject, with summaries</li> <li>http://www.leg.wa.gov/LEB/Opinions/ComplaintOpinions/pages/default.aspx</li> <li>Complaint Opinions 1995 - 2009, Search by complaint number and subject, with summaries</li> </ul>
West Virginia Ethics Commission  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, local officials, and lobbyists  Joint Commission on Special Investigations (Legislative Commission)  Jurisdiction: Concurrent jurisdiction with the West Virginia Ethics Commission to conduct investigations regarding conflict of interest issues	Access: http://www.wvethicscommission.org/advisoryopinions.htm#Opinions  • Ethics Advisory Opinions
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board  Jurisdiction: Legislators, executive branch, candidates, and lobbyists	Access: http://gab.wi.gov/ethics/enforcement
Wyoming - No Commission	

## Sources:

- State Ethics Commissions, National Conference of State Legislatures, Feb. 2010, http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=15331 (last visited June 22, 2010).
- State Ethics Committees, National Conference of State Legislatures, May 2009, http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=15343



(last visited June 22, 2010).

• Individual state ethics commission websites. (For the most convenient access to each state's ethics commission website, follow the link provided under each state in NCSL's State Ethics Commissions, previously cited above.

